GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6506
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2002
COMPUTERISATION OF ORDNANCE DEPOTS
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Automated Data Processing (ADP) Cell was created more than three decades back but even to date the output generated by the automated system continues to be checked manually, in the central ordnance depots at Agra, Jabalpur, Kanpur, Kirkee;

(b) if so, the reasons for the computerisation not come to use;

(c) the steps taken to make the computerisation a success;

(d) the number of computers held by the defence installations as on date, its model and configuration and the individual purchase price;

(e) whether additional number of warranty was obtained at the time of purchase and warranty extended yearly thereafter;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the source of purchasing the computers and whether the computers purchased from other sources than Kendriya Bhandar/NCCF/Super Bazar were priced lower of the same configuration and facilities?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): No Automated Data Processing (ADP) Cell was created three decades back.Only piecemeal automation in terms of stand-alone Personal Computers had been introduced in late 90s at some depots. Government has sanctioned a project called Computerised Inventory Control Project (CICP) for complete automation of Inventory Management in ordnance depots. Implementation of which is in progress.

(c) The following steps have been taken to make computerisation a success:-

(i) With advent of cheap microprocessors, all the Ordnance Units have been provided with at least one Personal Computer to automate inventory management functions.

(ii) Training to the work force is in progress.

(iii) The software development for CICP is complete and trials are underway.

(d) The number of computers held as on date by Ordnance Depots/Units is 779 of varied configurations which includes PC-486, Pentium I, II and III and Celeron based Personal Computers.Data regarding price of personal computers is available at Delhi up to March, 2000. Procurement prices have varied from Rs. 72,000 in October, 1996 for PC-486 to Rs. 43,000 in November, 1998 for Pentium-III to Rs. 34,000 in January, 2000.From April, 2000 the procurement is not being done by Army Ordnance Corps for the whole Army and is now being done by different Field Formations. Hence, information regarding prices of computers purchased after April, 2000 is not available.

(e) & (f): The computers and its peripherals were purchased with a standard one year warranty. As per the policy, the maintenance of the computers at Army Headquarters and Units located near Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (EME) workshop is the responsibility of EME. In respect of Units located away from EME workshop, maintenance is done through a combination of Annual Maintenance Contract or by resorting to case-to-case repairs.

(g) The source of purchasing computers are Original Equipment Manufacture or vendors from whom computers are purchased as per the purchase policy of Defence by inviting competitive biddings or at Directorate General of Supply and Disposal (DGS&D) rate contract. The policy aims at getting maximum price advantage. Ordnance units are spread all over India and facilities of Kendriya Bhandar/NCCF/Super Bazar are not available everywhere.